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The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is left entirely to the discretion of the authorities of the plantations."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Unfortunately there is no Government responsibility. The officer who should be made responsible is the officer in charge of these plantations. I know the Labour Commissioner is in charge and he is responsible to this report. The District Health Officer is sometimes responsible. What I say is that unless there is a rule that anybody can do anything, it is clear that a room of 12 feet × 12 feet will not do for a family which consists of more than four persons. There should be a rule made that if a family consists of more than four persons, a room bigger than 12 × 12 feet should be given to that family."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall consider the question and frame such rules as are necessary."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" 12 × 12 feet works out 3 × 3 feet for each individual if we take the number of persons as 4. Most of the labourers are well built and I do not know how a room measuring 12 × 12 feet will accommodate four such persons."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the labourers working in the plantations of the Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts are put in one big room like cattle ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government have no information. The Labour Commissioner has inspected these places and made this report."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know which Labour Commissioner inspected these places ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I think the present Labour Commissioner."

Supervision of the work of Commissioners for workmen's compensation.

* 210 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what supervision the Local Government exercises over the work of the Commissioner or Commissioners for workmen's compensation appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act ;

(b) how many cases under section 19 of the Act have been disposed of by the Commissioner or Commissioners in this Presidency for the nine months ending with 31st March 1925 (which may be shown in the form of a statement with the several amounts of compensation settled or total of such amounts) ; and

(c) the amount of fees paid for the proceedings for the period of nine months ending with 31st March 1925 according to the scale fixed in G.O. No. 2083, Law (General), dated 18th July 1924 (*Fort St. George Gazette* for July 22, 1924, Part I) ?

A.—(a) The Local Government appoint the Commissioner under the Act. They obtain an annual report from him on the working of the Act.

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(b) One case was filed and disposed of. A sum of Rs. 168 was awarded as compensation.

(c) Seven rupees.

Public Service.

Increments to acting clerks in continuous service.

*211 Q.—Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLA HAJI QASIM SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether acting (but passed) clerks without any substantive appointments with continuous acting service are allowed annual increments at the rate admissible on the scale on which they are borne;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to state whether unpassed men do not come under the category of 'clerks'?

A.—(a) Yes, subject to the service being approved.

(b) The question is not understood. A certain number of clerks are unpassed men and subject to the rules relating to such.

Salt.

Saltpetre factories and refineries in the Presidency.

*212 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued a G.O. No. 25, Finance (C.S.), dated 13th February 1925, upon the proceedings of the Collector of Salt Revenue, No. 4640 (Salt), dated 6th December 1924, ordering the closing of the saltpetre factories and refineries in the Madras Presidency with effect from 1st October 1925;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government did not give a chance either to those engaged in the manufacture of crude and refined saltpetre or to the public to state their views and objections with regard to closing the factories;

(c) whether Government are aware that a very large number of people, traders as well as coolies, are engaged in this industry many of whom will be ruined if this industry is thus suddenly put an end to;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the quantity and quality of the crude saltpetre produced in this province depend very much on the sufficiency of rainfall in the area in which the pans are situated;

(e) whether it is not a fact that the recent reduction in the production of saltpetre is due to the diminished rainfall in the recent years;

(f) whether Government are aware that dealers engaged in this industry have advanced large sums to the 'uppiliars' working for them and that they would find it difficult to realize these advances if this industry is thus suddenly sought to be put an end to;

(g) whether as regards the manufacture of common salt and also as regards fish-curing yards Government usually give adequate notice before calling upon them to close their factories;

(h) whether Government are aware that as regards the manufacture of crude saltpetre a bare six months' notice for closing long-established concerns has been given;